






Science of Environmental Justice  
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# EPA and Children's Health

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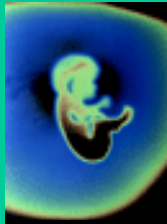


# Objectives



- To describe EPA's on-going approaches to improving CEH (focusing on "sciencey" ones)
- To describe data gaps and challenges to improving CEH
- To describe future efforts to fill gaps and meet challenges in CEH

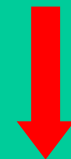
# Children Are Not Little Adults



**Windows of  
Vulnerability in  
Development**

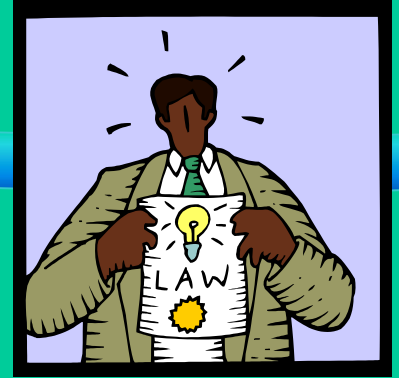
**Differences in  
Physiology**

**Differences in  
Behaviors**



**Children's Increased Vulnerability**

# Executive Order on the Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks (1997, reauthorized 2001)



- Requires ALL Federal Agencies to
  - ❖ address health & safety risks to children as a high priority
  - ❖ coordinate research priorities on Children's Health
  - ❖ ensure all standards take into account special risks to children



# EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection

Mission: To make the health protection of children and the aging a fundamental goal of public health and environmental protection in the United States and around the world



# Our Strategy



- Building Infrastructure & Capacity
- Increasing Awareness of Environmental Hazards That Affect Children



# How We Build Infrastructure & Capacity and Increase Awareness

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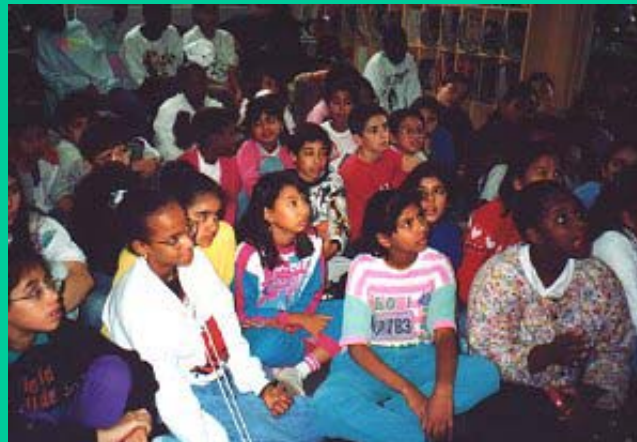
- Provide information and tools
- Support community actions
- Inform health care providers
- Engage youth in children's environmental health protection
- Work with states to develop programs to address children's environmental health issues



# OCHP Supports and Facilitates EPA efforts in

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- Regulations and standards
- Science and risk assessment
- Outreach and partnership





# Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC)

- A group that advises EPA on regulations, research, and communication issues relevant to children
- Members include
  - ❖ researchers
  - ❖ academicians
  - ❖ health care providers
  - ❖ environmentalists
  - ❖ children's advocates
  - ❖ professionals
  - ❖ government employees
  - ❖ members of the public



# President's Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children

- Agencies and offices working together to improve the environmental health and safety of America's children
- Efforts and Accomplishments
  - ❖ Asthma Strategy
  - ❖ Lead Strategy
  - ❖ Federal Inventory of School EH Activities
  - ❖ School EH Web Portal
  - ❖ National Children's Study
  - ❖ Children's Health Month



# On Increasing Awareness and Filling Data Gaps

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- **America's Children and the Environment**
  - ❖ A First View of Available Measures
  - ❖ Measures of Contaminants, Body Burdens, and Illnesses (Second Edition)
- **Child-Specific Exposure Factors Handbook**
- **Supplemental Guidance for Assessing Cancer Susceptibility Resulting from Early-Life Exposure to Carcinogens**

# In-Progress or Upcoming

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- National Children's Study
- VCCEP  
Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program
- TEACH  
Toxicity and Exposure Assessment for Children's Health

# In-Progress or Upcoming

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## ■ Publications

- ❖ Overview of the Special Vulnerability and Health Problems of Children
- ❖ Critical Periods in Development
- ❖ Children's Environmental Exposures
- ❖ Asthma-Related Medical Expenditures in the United States: Distributions and Trends

# Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units

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- Regional resources that provide
  - ❖ education
  - ❖ consultation services
- To health professionals, public health officials, and the public
- Each PEHSU has
  - ❖ Multi-disciplinary staff
  - ❖ Toll-free number
  - ❖ Web site dedicated to providing Region-specific information

# Children's Health Research Centers

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- Co-funded by NIEHS, CDC and EPA
- Combine basic and applied research
- Include
  - ❖ laboratory research projects
  - ❖ community-based intervention project

# Other Needs / Challenges: Staff

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- EPA's mission "to protect human health and the environment" but more of EPA staff trained to protect environment
- Staff trained for community work are limited, not always valued (often viewed as outreach workers)
- Limited experience with real community based participatory work



# Other Needs / Challenges: Other

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- Culture doesn't foster cross-media work (better in Regions than HQ)
- GPRA goals require use of quantitative indicators and often don't exist at scale we need
- Our emphasis on "bean counting" doesn't always encourage community based work
  - ❖ Wholesale vs Retail approaches
  - ❖ Longer time frame not appreciated

# Where Do We Go From Here?

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- We have much to learn  
*(we don't even know what we don't know yet)*
- We have to be creative, innovative, flexible  
*(single media, single discipline approaches are not likely to work)*
- We have to be proactive but also cautious  
*(we don't want quick fixes to create more problems down the road)*

Please feel free to contact me for more information, or to suggest ways we may be able to partner in activities that will have a positive impact on children's health

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# EPA CEH Resources

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- EPA Children's Health Website  
[www.epa.gov/children](http://www.epa.gov/children)
- EPA School Website  
[www.epa.gov/schools](http://www.epa.gov/schools)
- EPA Indoor Air Quality Website  
[www.epa.gov/iaq](http://www.epa.gov/iaq)
- EPA Lead Website  
[www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead)
- EPA Pesticides Website  
[www.epa.gov/pesticides](http://www.epa.gov/pesticides)

# More EPA (and Friends) CEH Resources

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- Voluntary Children's Chemical Evaluation Program (VCCEP)  
<http://www.epa.gov/chemrtk/vccep/>
- Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units  
<http://www.aoec.org/pesu.htm>
- Centers for Children's Environmental Health and Disease Prevention Research  
<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/translate/children/children.htm>